(iv) Exploration for new coal blocks has been expedited.

(v) Procedure for project approvals have been streamlined.

(vi) Power Ministry has been advised to import about 14 million tonnes of coal during 2005-06.

Hurriyat leaders Pakistan visit without passport

*77. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hurriyat delegation which crossed the Line of Control by Muzaffarabad bus was allowed to go to Islamabad without passport and visa;

(b) whether it is not a violation of the Indo-Pak agreement;

(c) what protests Government have made with the Government of Pakistan;

(d) what steps are being taken to see that this does not become a precedence; and

(e) whether Government was fully aware of the invitation of the Government of Pakistan to the Hurriyat leaders to visit Pakistan and still allowed them to travel to Pakistan through Muzaffarabad without passports and visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (e) Some leaders of the Hurriyat visited Pok and Pakistan from 2-16 June 2005. Their visit to PoK using the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus was cleared on the basis of procedures agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The bilateral understanding on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service is that travel is limited to the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir and is on the basis of permits issued by the two sides.

Government has made its stand clear that Pakistan's decision to invite the Hurriyat leaders to visit Islamabad and other cities in Pakistan violated an understanding between the two countries, and that the onus for any Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus passenger travelling beyond PoK lay on the Pakistani authorities.

Government was aware of the invitation of Government of Pakistan to the Hurriyat leaders. The Hurriyat leaders visited PoK and Pakistan in their individual capacities. Passports were issued to those Hurriyat leaders who did not possess Indian passports and made a request for the issue of such documents.

Local dialling withir. States

*78. SHRI C. PERUMAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in certain States like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, etc. telephone subscribers do not have to dial '0' to access mobile phones in another circle within the State from both mobile phones and landline phones;

(b) whether this facility is likely to be extended from landline to landline phones also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) to (c) In May, 2005, it has been decided that the calls within a State having two service areas namely, Chennai & Tamil Nadu, Kolkata & West Bengal, Mumbai & Maharashtra and UP (East) & UP (West), would be treated as intra-service area calls. For landline to landline calls also, the facility of dialling without '0' between these service areas is available.

(d) Not applicable in view of (a) to (c) above.